AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

In Paragraph [0005]:

[0005] FIG. **1** shows a configuration for a conventional disk drive **100**. A disk **101** is stored in a cartridge **102** and has an information storage layer **L**. An optical pickup ~~**13**~~ **103** includes an objective lens **123** and an actuator **122** for driving the objective lens **123** and detects the light that has been reflected from the information storage layer **L** of the disk **101**. A focus error signal generating circuit **112** generates a focus error signal, representing how much the focal point of the light has shifted from the information storage layer **L**, based on the output of the optical pickup ~~**13**~~ **103**. In response to the output of the focus error signal generating circuit **112**, a focus control circuit **120** outputs a focus control signal to get the focal point located right on the information storage layer **L**. An actuator driver circuit **121** drives the actuator **122** responsive to a drive control signal **e**, thereby moving the objective lens **123** perpendicularly to the information storage layer **L**.

In Paragraph [0048]:

[0048] Following operations are performed in response to the retraction signal. Specifically, first, the retraction signal rises to a signal level **Elvl1**, which is associated with a position of the objective lens **23** that is closer to the disk **1** than the farthest position thereof is. In response to the retraction signal with the signal level **Elvl1**, the objective lens **23** moves quickly to a position, from which the information

storage layer **L** is located at a distance **Lv1**. Such a position will be referred to herein as a "position **Lv1**". Once the objective lens **23** reaches the position **Lv1**, the retraction signal gradually falls to a signal level **Elvl2**. As a result, the objective lens **23** falls down to a retraction position ~~**Elvl2**~~ **Lv2**, which corresponds to the "farthest position" described above. When the objective lens **23** reaches this position, the retraction is complete at the time **t1**. Since the objective lens **23** is fixed at this retraction position after that, the signal level of the retraction signal is maintained at Elvl2.

In Paragraph [0051]:

[0051] Following operations are performed in response to the velocity control signal. Specifically, first, the velocity control signal rises from the signal level **Elvl2** to a signal level **Elvl3** at a relatively high rate of change (as represented by the gradient of the graph shown in portion **(e)** of FIG. **4**). As a result, the objective lens **23** starts to move rather quickly from the retraction position ~~(Elvl2)~~ (Lv2) toward the disk **1**. Once the signal level reaches Elvl3 (i.e., once the objective lens **23** reaches the position **Lv3**), the velocity control signal starts to increase its level at a slower rate of change. Accordingly, the objective lens **23** starts to move at a lower velocity.

In Paragraph [0070]:

[0070] On seeing that the objective lens **23** still stays at the retraction position **Lv2**, the system controller **30** issues an instruction to unload the disk at the time **t11**. Then,

while the objective lens **23** is still held at the retraction position ~~(Elvl2)~~ (Lv2), the disk tray (not shown) is ejected out of the disk drive **10**, thereby unloading the disk **1**. The user removes the disk **1** from the disk tray and then the disk tray is inserted back into the disk drive **10**. Then, at the time **t11**, the system controller **30** judges that the unloading operation has ended and instructs the retraction control section **52** and the switching circuit **55** to stop outputting the retraction signal. As a result, the driver circuit **60** stops driving the actuator **22**, and the actuator **22** and the objective lens **23** coupled to the actuator **22** go back to their neutral (rest) positions.

In Paragraph [0071]:

[0071] According to this preferred embodiment, when the disk **1** starts being loaded, the retraction signal is generated to retract the actuator **22** to the position **Lv2**. Likewise, when the instruction to end the focus control is issued, the objective lens **23** is also retracted to, and held at, the position **Lv2**. Furthermore, on finding the output of the light amount detecting circuit **42** less than the predetermined value **Clv1** while the focus control is being performed, the monitoring circuit **51** detects the loss of focus control and retracts the objective lens **23** to the retraction position ~~(Elvl2)~~ (Lv2), too. Consequently, even when the control is no longer working, a serious collision of the objective lens **23** against the disk **1** can be avoided.